

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15963

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EC
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR

1. PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR CONSULATIONS, I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR FOR A DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY RUMOR WERE AS FOLLOWS.

2. EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. REPORTING ON THE JUST CONCLUDED EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING (SEE ROME 15884 FOR FULL REPORT), RUMOR SAID THAT THINGS HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL, AND HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE MINISTERS ARE FINDING IT CONTINUALLY MORE EASY TO FIND COMMON GROUND IN ISSUES CONFRONTING THEM. AT THE MEETING, THE MINISTERS FIRMLY RESOLVED TO OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM WHEN IT COMES TO VOTE IN THE PLENARY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MINISTERS PLEDGED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA AND TO INDUCE OTHER NATIONS TO OPPOSE THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION.

3. INTERNAL ITALIAN POLITICS. RUMOR WAS EXTREMELY EMPHATIC IN SAYING THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP IS IN FAVOR OF A "CONFRONTO" (DIALOGUE, NOT CONFRONTATION) WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) BUT THAT IT HOLDS THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITH THE PCI AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY AND NOT AS PART OF THE GOVERNING COALITION. RUMOR, HIMSELF, IS TRYING TO

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ACT LIKE A STATESMAN AND TO REMAIN OUT OF THE POLITICAL FRAY. HE

NEW EXPECTS DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI TO REMAIN AT HIS POST FOR
SOME TIME. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, RUMOR MENTIONED THAT
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT, OF WHICH HE IS
PRESIDENT, HAD NOT YET EXPRESSED ANY CONCERN TO THE ITALIANS
ABOUT THE GROWING COMMUNIST THREAT.VOLPE

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